Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of deprotecting a hydroxide or amine protected with a group of formula

$$ArC^{*}(R)H\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}O\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}$$

, wherein R is H or independently the same as Ar, and n is 0 or 1-4, Ar refers to an aromatic or heteroaromatic ring with 5 to 6 ring atoms and wherein the heteroaromatic ring contains one to two heteroatoms selected from O, N or S, which can be substituted with amino, alkanoyloxy, alkoxy, alkyl, alkylamino, allyl, carboxy, cycloalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl or nitro, or up to one group which is (i) Ar^{*} which is independently the same as Ar except that it is not substituted with a further aryl, (ii) Ar^{*}-alkyl- or (iii) $Ar^{*}O$-, a ring atom of Ar adjacent to C^{*} can be substituted with $-CH_2-$, -O-, -NH-, $-S(O)_q-$ or $-P(O)_r-$, to form a bridge to a corresponding position on R when R is Ar, q is 0 or 1-2 and r is 0 or 1-2, the method comprising:

contacting the protected hydroxide or amine with an enzyme effective to remove the protecting group; and

recovering the amine.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the protecting group is a phenylmethyloxycarbonyl group, which can be substituted.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein n is 0 when R is H.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein n is 1 where R is the same as Ar.

Claims 5 – 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the protected compound is an amine which is alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, 4-hydroxyproline, phenylalanine, tryptophan, methionine, glycine, serine, homoserine, threonine, cysteine, homocysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, lysine, α-amino-ε-caprolactam (lysine lactam), ε-methyllysine, ornithine, arginine, histidine or 3-methyhistidine, or any of the foregoing substituted on an alkyl portion thereof with hydroxy or alkyl, on an amino with up to one alkyl, or on a phenyl moiety with alkyl, alkanoyloxy, alkoxy, amino, carboxy, cycloalkyl, halo, hydroxy, Ar^* or Ar^*O-, or a derivative of the foregoing forming a portion of a larger molecule via bonds formed by dehydration reactions with the amine or carboxylic acid moieties, or by carbon-nitrogen bonds formed at the amine moieties.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 7, wherein the amine is α-amino-ε-caprolactam or α-amino-δ,δ-dimethyl-ε-caprolactam, or a derivative thereof.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A method of resolving a racemic mixture of a compound having a hydroxyl or amino moiety that is directly bonded to a chiral carbon, the method comprising:

providing a derivative of the compound in which the hydroxide or amine is protected with a group of formula $ArC^*(R)H-(CH2)_n-O-C(=O)$-, wherein R is H or independently the same as Ar, and n is 0 or 1-4, Ar refers to an aromatic or heteroaromatic ring with 5 to 6 ring atoms and wherein the heteroaromatic ring contains one to two heteroatoms selected from O, N or S, which can be substituted with amino, alkanoyloxy, alkoxy, alkyl, alkylamino, allyl, carboxy, cycloalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl or nitro, or up to one group which is (i) Ar* which is independently the same as Ar except that it is not substituted with a further aryl, (ii) Ar*-alkyl- or (iii) Ar*O-, a ring atom of Ar adjacent to C* can be substituted with $-CH_2$-, -O-, -NH-, $-S(O)_q$- or $-P(O)_r$-, to form a bridge to a corresponding position on R when R is Ar, q is 0 or 1-2 and r is 0 or 1-2;

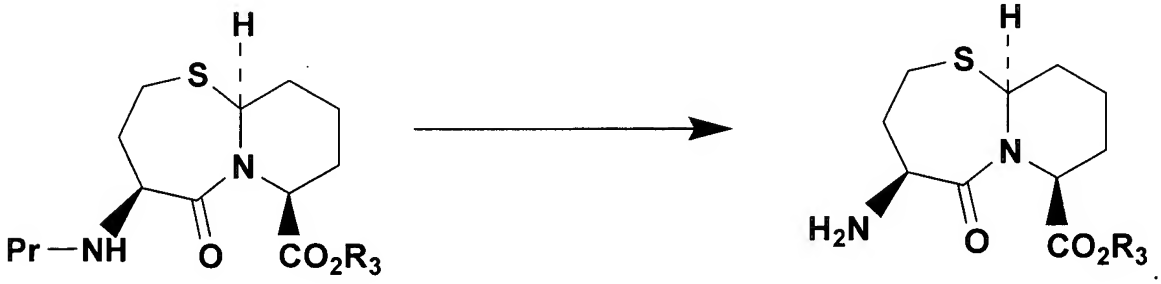
contacting the protected compound with an enzyme effective to remove the protecting group; and

isolating the compound or protected derivative thereof in a composition that is enantiomerically enriched in the desired enantiomer.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the protecting group is a phenylmethyloxycarbonyl group, which can be substituted.

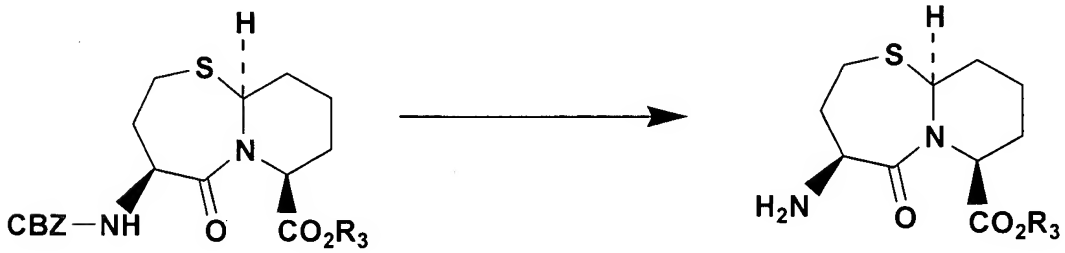
Claims 11 – 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the contacting effectuates the following reaction:



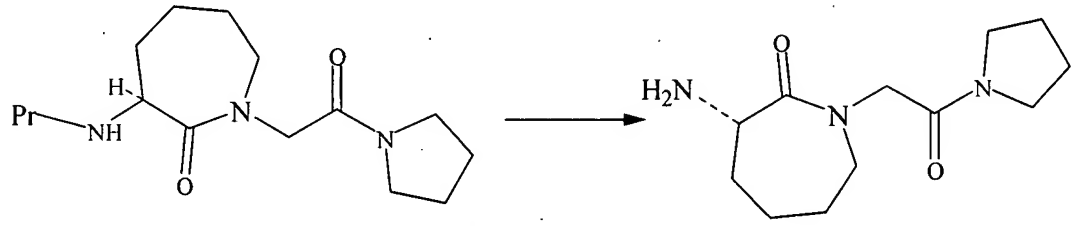
, wherein Pr- is $ArC^*(R)H\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}O\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}$.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the reaction is:



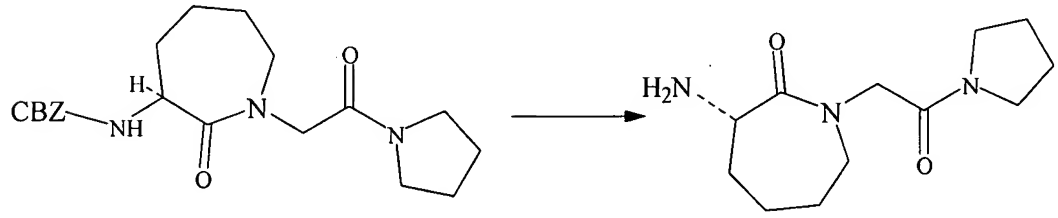
, wherein CBZ- is N-carbobenzyloxy.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the contacting effectuates the following reaction:



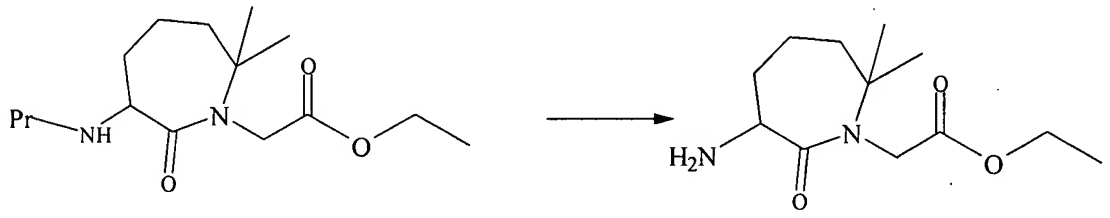
, wherein Pr- is $ArC^{*}(R)H\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}O\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}$.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein the reaction is:



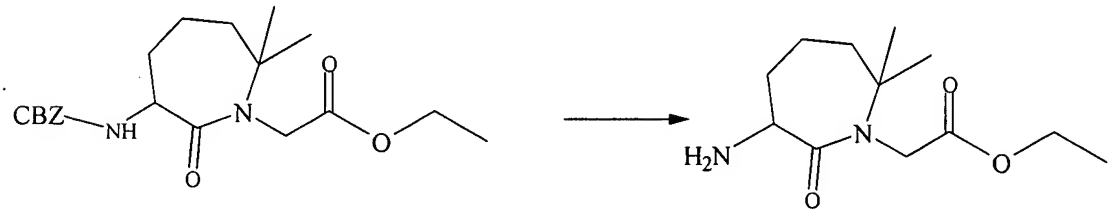
, wherein CBZ- is N-carbobenzyloxy.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the contacting effectuates the following reaction:



, wherein Pr- is $ArC^{*}(R)H\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}O\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}$.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 19, wherein the reaction is:



, wherein CBZ- is N-carbobenzyloxy.

Claim 21 (New): A method of deprotecting a hydroxide or amine protected with a group of formula

$$ArC^{*}(R)H\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}O\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}$$

, wherein R is H or independently the same as Ar, and n is 0 or 1-4, Ar refers to an aromatic or heteroaromatic ring with 5 to 6 ring atoms and wherein the heteroaromatic ring contains one to two heteroatoms selected from O, N or S, which can be substituted with amino, alkanoyloxy, alkoxy, alkyl, alkylamino, allyl, carboxy, cycloalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl or nitro, or up to one group which is (i) Ar^{*} which is independently the same as Ar except that it is not substituted with a further aryl, (ii) Ar^{*}-alkyl- or (iii) $Ar^{*}O$-, a ring atom of Ar adjacent to C^{*} can be substituted with $-CH_2-$, -O-, -NH-, $-S(O)_q-$ or $-P(O)_r-$, to form a bridge to a corresponding position on R when R is Ar, q is 0 or 1-2 and r is 0 or 1-2, the method comprising:

contacting the protected hydroxide or amine with an enzyme effective to remove the protecting group, wherein the enzyme is obtained from *Sphingomonas paucimobilis*; and

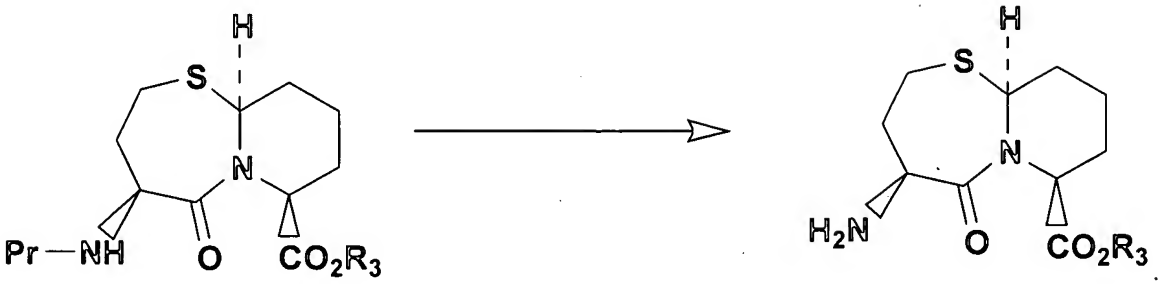
recovering the amine.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein the protecting group is a phenylmethyloxycarbonyl group, which can be substituted.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein n is 0 when R is H.

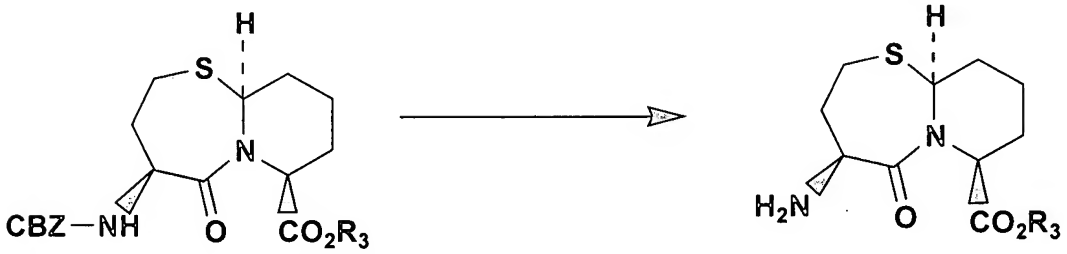
Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein n is 1 where R is the same as Ar.

Claim 25 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein the contacting effectuates the following reaction:



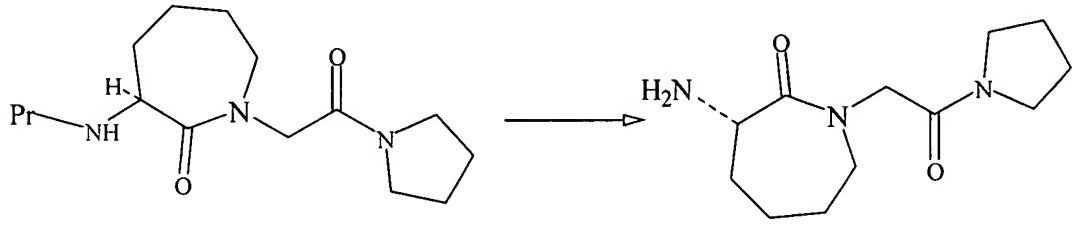
, wherein Pr- is $ArC^*(R)H\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}O\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}$.

Claim 26 (New): The method of claim 25, wherein the reaction is:



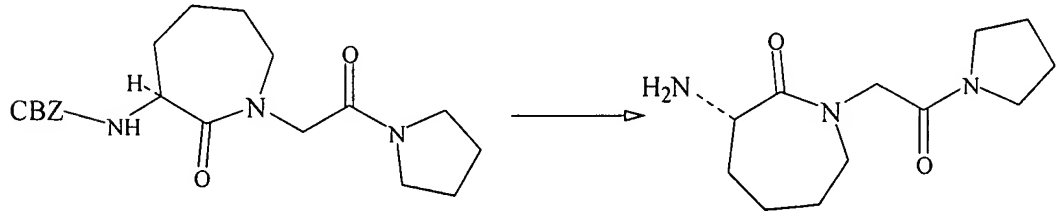
, wherein CBZ- is N-carbobenzyloxy.

Claim 27 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein the contacting effectuates the following reaction:



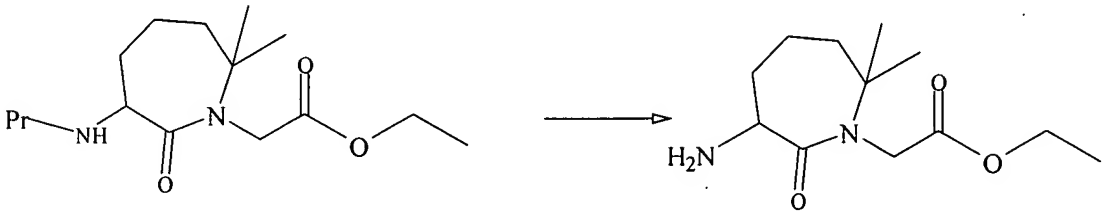
, wherein Pr- is $ArC^*(R)H\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}O\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}$.

Claim 28 (New): The method of claim 27, wherein the reaction is:



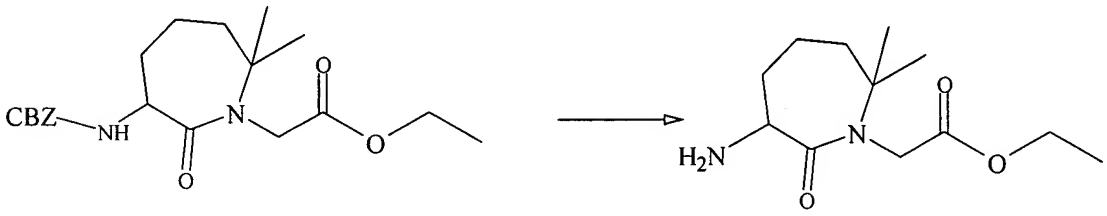
, wherein CBZ- is N-carbobenzyloxy.

Claim 29 (New): The method of claim 21, wherein the contacting effectuates the following reaction:



, wherein Pr- is $ArC^*(R)H\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}O\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}$.

Claim 30 (New): The method of claim 29, wherein the reaction is:



, wherein CBZ- is N-carbobenzyloxy.

Claim 31 (New): A method of deprotecting a hydroxide or amine protected with a group of formula

$$ArC^*(R)H\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}O\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}$$

, wherein R is H or independently the same as Ar, and n is 0 or 1-4, Ar refers to an aromatic or heteroaromatic ring with 5 to 6 ring atoms and wherein the heteroaromatic ring contains one to two heteroatoms selected from O, N or S, which can be substituted with amino, alkanoyloxy, alkoxy, alkyl, alkylamino, allyl, carboxy, cycloalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl or nitro, or up to one group which is (i) Ar^* which is independently the same as Ar except that it is not substituted with a further aryl, (ii) Ar^*-alkyl- or (iii) Ar^*O-, a ring atom of Ar adjacent to C^* can be substituted with $-CH_2-$, -O-, -NH-, $-S(O)_q-$ or $-P(O)_r-$, to form a bridge to a corresponding position on R when R is Ar, q is 0 or 1-2 and r is 0 or 1-2, the method comprising:

contacting the protected hydroxide or amine with an enzyme effective to remove the protecting group, wherein the enzyme is obtained from *Sphingomonas paucimobilis* strain ATCC 202027; and

recovering the amine.

Claim 32 (New): The method of claim 9, wherein the enzyme is obtained from *Sphingomonas paucimobilis*.

Claim 33 (New): The method of claim 9, wherein the enzyme is obtained from *Sphingomonas paucimobilis* strain ATCC 202027.